

a layer of solidified compressible material filling said cavity and providing protection for the glass pane.

2. (Amended) A compressible structure for temporarily protecting a glass pane of a window structure comprising

a shaping member for removable securement on the window structure and defining a cavity over the glass pane;

a layer of solidified compressible material in said cavity providing protection for the glass pane; and

a port in said shaping member communicating with said cavity by which said compressible material is supplied to said cavity in fluidic form and solidifies within said cavity.

3. A compressible structure as recited in claim 2 wherein said compressible material is a polymeric foam.

4. A compressible structure as recited in claim 1 and further including a securing element for removably securing said compressible structure on the window structure.

5. A compressible structure as recited in claim 4 wherein said securing element includes a releasable adhesive carried by said shaping member.

6. A compressible structure as recited in claim 4 wherein said compressible structure has an external perimeter and said securing element includes one or more securing devices interposed between said perimeter and the window structure.

7. (Amended) A compressible structure for temporarily protecting a glass pane of a window structure comprising

- a shaping member for removable securement on the window structure and defining a cavity over the glass pane;
- a layer of solidified compressible material in said cavity providing protection for the glass pane; and
- a securing element for removably securing said compressible structure on the window structure, said securing element including one or more securing devices each including an attachment member and a clip, said attachment member having a planar base for being releasably, adhesively secured to the glass pane and a pin extending perpendicularly from said base for penetrating said compressible structure so that a forward end of said pin protrudes from said compressible structure, said clip including an opening for receiving said forward end therethrough in releasable locking engagement to retain said compressible structure between said clip and said base.

8. A compressible structure as recited in claim 3 wherein said shaping member includes a front wall, a back wall for being disposed adjacent to the glass pane and one or more side walls connecting said front and back walls, said cavity being defined between said front and back walls.

9. A compressible structure as recited in claim 8 wherein said back wall is made of a sponge material.

10. A compressible structure as recited in claim 8 wherein said back wall includes spaced layers and a cushioning structure between said layers.

11. A compressible structure as recited in claim 10 wherein said cushioning structure includes a plurality of air cells unit.

12. A compressible structure as recited in claim 10 wherein said cushioning structure includes a plurality of polymeric particles.

13. A compressible structure as recited in claim 8 and further including a cushioning element carried by said back wall.

14. A compressible structure as recited in claim 8 wherein said compressible material is a releasably adherable material and further including an opening in said shaping member by which said compressible material in fluidic form contacts the window structure to releasably adhere said shaping member to the window structure when said compressible material solidifies.

15. A compressible structure as recited in claim 8 wherein said front wall is made of a high strength, impact resistant material.

16. A compressible structure as recited in claim 3 wherein said shaping member includes a front wall and one or more side walls extending rearwardly from said front wall to contact the window structure, said front wall being spaced from the glass pane by said one or more side walls, said cavity being defined between said front wall and said glass pane.

17. (Amended) A compressible structure for temporarily protecting a glass pane of a window structure comprising

a shaping member for removable securement on the window structure and defining a cavity over the glass pane; and

a layer of solidified compressible material in said cavity providing protection for the glass pane, said layer of solidified compressible material including a first layer of a first solidified compressible material and a second layer of a second solidified compressible material disposed over said first layer, said first and second solidified compressible materials being of different densities.

18. A compressible structure as recited in claim 17 wherein said first solidified compressible material is of greater density than said second solidified compressible material.

19. A compressible structure as recited in claim 18 wherein said second layer of said second solidified compressible material is disposed between the glass pane and said first layer of said first solidified compressible material.

20. A compressible structure as recited in claim 1 wherein said layer of solidified compressible material has a thickness in the range of 0.5 inch to 12.0 inches.

21. A compressible structure as recited in claim 20 wherein said layer of solidified compressible material has a thickness in the range of 1.0 inch to 4.0 inches.

22. A compressible structure as recited in claim 1 wherein said shaping member is adjustable in external size in response to a variation in the amount of said solidified compressible material in said cavity.

23. A window protection system for temporarily protecting a glass pane of a window structure comprising

a shaping member for removable securement on a window structure and defining a cavity over the glass pane;

a port in said shaping member establishing communication with said cavity of externally of said shaping member; and

a supply system including a quantity of compressible material in fluid form and a delivery device for supplying said compressible material in fluid form through said port and into said cavity, said compressible material in fluid form solidifying within said cavity to form a layer of solidified compressible material, thereby forming a compressible structure, defined by said shaping member and said layer of solidified compressible material, over the glass pane to provide protection thereto.

24. A window protection system as recited in claim 23 wherein said compressible material is a polymeric foam.

25. A window protection system as recited in claim 24 and further including a securing element for removably securing said shaping member on said window structure.

26. A window protection system as recited in claim 25 wherein said securing element includes an adhesive.

27. A window protection system as recited in claim 25 wherein said securing element includes one or more mechanical securing devices.

28. A window protection system as recited in claim 23 wherein said quantity of compressible material in fluid form includes a quantity of a first compressible material in fluid form forming a first layer of a first solidified compressible material having a first density and a quantity of a second compressible material in fluid form for forming a second layer of a second compressible material having a second density greater than said first density.

29. (Amended) A temporarily protected window structure comprising
a window structure having a glass pane mounted in a frame; and
a compressible structure removably secured on said window structure and
including a panel of solidified compressible foam material disposed over the exterior of
said glass pane to protect said glass pane from damage due to storms.

30. (Amended) A protected window structure as recited in claim 29 and
further including a securing element removably securing said compressible structure
on said window structure.

31. A protected window structure as recited in claim 30 wherein said securing
element includes an adhesive.

32. A protected window structure as recited in claim 30 wherein said securing
element includes one or more mechanical securing devices.

33. A protected window structure as recited in claim 32 wherein said compressible structure has an external perimeter and said one or more securing devices are interposed between said perimeter and said window structure.

34. (Amended) A temporarily protected window structure comprising
a window structure having a glass pane mounted in a frame;
a compressible structure removably secured on said window structure and including
a panel of solidified compressible foam material disposed over said glass pane to protect
said glass pane from damage due to storms; and

a securing element removably securing said compressible structure on said window structure, said securing element including one or more mechanical securing devices, said one or more securing devices each including an attachment member and a clip, said attachment member having a planar base releasably, adhesively secured to said glass pane and a pin extending perpendicularly from said base for penetrating said compressible structure so that a forward end of said pin protrudes from said compressible structure, said clip including an opening for receiving said forward end therethrough in locking engagement to retain said compressible structure between said clip and said base.

35. (Amended) A temporarily protected window structure comprising
a window structure having a glass pane mounted in a frame;
a compressible structure removably secured on said window structure and including
a panel of solidified compressible foam material disposed over said glass pane to protect
said glass pane from damage due to storms, said panel of solidified compressible material

including a first layer of a first solidified compressible material having a first density and a second layer of a second solidified compressible material disposed over said first layer and having a second density greater than said first density; and

a securing element removably securing said compressible structure on said window structure.

36. A protected window structure as recited in claim 35 wherein said first layer is disposed between said second layer and said glass pane.

37. (Amended) A method of temporarily protecting a glass pane of a window structure in a building from storm damage, comprising the steps of

before a storm arrives, releasably securing a pre-formed panel of solidified compressible material over the exterior of the glass pane;

leaving the panel in place during the storm to protect the glass pane from damage; and

after the storm has passed, removing the panel from the glass pane.

38. A method of temporarily protecting a glass pane as recited in claim 37 wherein said step of releasably securing includes adhesively securing the panel to the glass pane.

39. A method of temporarily protecting a glass pane as recited in claim 37 wherein said step of releasably securing includes positioning one or more securing devices

between the window structure and an external perimeter of the panel.

40. (Amended) A method of temporarily protecting a glass pane of a window structure in a building from storm damage, comprising the steps of

before a storm arrives, releasably securing a pre-formed panel of solidified compressible material over the glass pane, said step of releasably securing including the steps of inserting a pin of an attachment member through the panel so that a base of the attachment member abuts a back surface of the panel and a forward end of the pin protrudes from a forward surface of the panel, positioning a clip on the forward end of the pin to releasably, lockingly retain the panel between the clip and the base, and releasably attaching the base to the window structure;

leaving the panel in place during the storm to protect the glass pane from damage;
and

after the storm has passed, removing the panel from the glass pane.

41. A method of temporarily protecting a glass pane as recited in claim 40 wherein said step of releasably attaching includes releasably attaching the base to the window structure adhesively.

42. The method of temporarily protecting a glass pane as recited in claim 37 and further including, subsequent to said step of removing, the step of storing the panel for reuse.

43. A method of temporarily protecting a glass pane of a window structure in a building from storm damage, comprising the steps of

before a storm arrives, removably securing a shaping member on the window structure so that a cavity defined by the shaping member is disposed over at least a portion of the glass pane;

supplying a fluidic compressible material to the cavity;

allowing the fluidic compressible material to cure and form a layer of solidified compressible material thereby forming a compressible structure over at least a portion of the glass pane;

leaving the compressible structure in place during the storm to protect the window structure from damage; and

after the storm has passed, removing the compressible structure from the window structure.--.

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action of September 20, 2002.

Claims 1-43 are pending in the subject application with claims 1, 2, 7, 17, 29, 30, 34, 35, 37 and 40 having been amended. Claims 23-28 and 43 stand allowed by the Examiner.

Support for the amended claims is found throughout the specification as originally filed such that the amended claims do not introduce any new matter.

The drawings stand objected to by the Examiner for not including reference number